



Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND GRANT

Local Government Division

Introduction

Community Investment Fund (CIF) Grants provide eligible Washington State communities the opportunity to access funds throughout the year for their high-priority community and economic development projects. It is an attempt to deliver financial and technical assistance in a collaborative way. Technical assistance will be provided to interested communities by Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) staff, along with on-site visits to the communities.

The CDBG Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The purpose of the state CDBG Program is to improve and maintain the economic and physical environment of eligible, non-entitlement cities and counties in order to enhance the quality of life for low- and moderate-income residents and, as a result, benefit the entire community.

Funds Available

\$5.1 million in grant funds are available for the Community Investment Fund in 2005. Projects will be funded on a first-come, first-serve basis until funds have been fully used. Additional monies from the CDBG Contingency Fund may be used for priority projects on a funds available basis. Applicants should check as to fund availability prior to applying.

Eligibility Guidelines

Eligible applicants are Washington State cities and towns with less than 50,000 in population or counties with less than 200,000 in population that are non-entitlement jurisdictions or are not participants in a HUD Urban County Entitlement Consortium.

Non-profit organizations, Indian tribes, and special purpose organizations such as public housing authorities, port districts, community action agencies, and economic development councils, are not eligible to apply directly to the CDBG Program for funding. However, eligible jurisdictions may choose to serve Indian tribes within their jurisdiction or to involve the other organizations in the operation of projects funded under the program.

Projects funded by CIF must also:

- Demonstrate a clear need for grant dollars and fill a funding gap;
- Be ready to proceed;
- Demonstrate at least 51 percent low- and moderate-income benefit, or elimination or prevention of slums or blight;
- Rank in top three on the county's WA-CERT list; and
- Be a CDBG eligible activity.

For More Information

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Application Process

- CIF pre-application submitted to CDBG Program after being ranked on the county's WA-CERT list as one of the top three priorities.
- CIF pre-application is reviewed for eligible activities, meeting a CDBG national objective and completeness of the proposal at the time.
- Preliminary scoping of the project takes place to determine if the project is a local priority and ready to proceed.
- Determination is made whether project requires more technical assistance or if the

project is ready to proceed. More technical assistance may include determining other possible funding sources, assistance with work plan development, and assistance with project development before funding can be obtained, etc.

- An internal CTED Resource Team reviews the CIF pre-application when the project is ready to proceed.
- If project is determined to be viable, ready to proceed and CDBG is an appropriate source of funding, the community is invited to submit full CIF application.
- Full application will summarize the need, capacity, readiness and results.
- To meet federal requirements, a full application must also contain documentation of meeting a CDBG national objective, compliance with citizen participation requirements including evidence of a public hearing for the application, resolutions with certification of compliance and a disclosure report.